

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03644 040605Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----040612Z 121152 /15

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3645

S E C R E T SEOUL 3644

NODIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT KS US

SUBJ: KOREA AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION.

REF: SEOUL 3406

1. I DISCUSSED ROKG POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS EVENING MAY 2
WITH KCIA DIRECTOR KIM JAE KYU ONCE AGAIN. PRIOR TO DISCUSSION
I HAD MET PRIVATELY WITH TWO SENIOR KOREANS WHO ARE PERSONALLY
SYMPATHETIC WITH OUR POSITION ON NEED FOR RELAXATION OF
CONTROLS, INCLUDING RELEASE OF MYONGDONG PRISONERS. BOTH
FELT THAT DIRECTOR KIM WAS THE ONE MAN WHO COULD INFLUENCE
PRESIDENT PARK IN THIS DIRECTION AND BOTH OFFERED TO SPEAK
TO HIM, AS WELL AS URGING ME TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH
KIM THEIR GENERAL APPRAISAL WAS THAT PRESIDENT PARK,
WHILE IN AN ENTRENCHED MOOD, COULD BE BROUGHT AROUND, BUT
THAT DIRECTOR KIM WAS THE ONLY ONE CLOSE TO HIM WILLING TO
CONFRONT HIM ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE.

2. KIM FIRST OF ALL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR MY SENDING
HIM PERSONALLY A COPY OF SECRETARY VANCE'S SPEECH
ON HUMAN RIGHTS. HE FOUND IT "INTERESTING" AND APPRECIATED
BEING KEPT INFORMED OF US VIEWS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS
QUESTION. WHEN I RAISED SPECIFICALLY QUESTION OF RELEASE
OF MYONGDONG PRISONERS, HE DID NOT AS IN THE PAST ARGUE

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THE ROKG POSITION, BUT SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE PROBLEM
WOULD BE "TAKEN CARE OF".

3. COMMENT: DESPITE KIM'S INDICATION OF POSITIVE ACTION,
I REMAIN WARY AND WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE PROBLEM AT
LEVELS HOPEFULLY OF SOME INFLUENCE ON PRESIDENT PARK.
HOWEVER THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW POSITIVE SIGNS, INCLUDING

RELEASE OF ALL THOSE DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH MARCH 22
DECLARATION AND ROKG DIALOGUE WITH CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP
WHICH WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY.
SNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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